



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

*Household insects and plague.*

The following, taken from American Medicine, October 24, 1903, shows the danger of contracting plague from the bites of insects:

It is stated that the annual appearance of plague at Hongkong each spring has led Sir Henry Black to make an investigation. A block of native houses containing several thousand inhabitants, which was certified as being free of the plague, was selected for examination of vermin as the first step. Fleas, cockroaches, and spiders were found to be unmistakably infected with the germs of the plague. The bite of these insects is sufficient to introduce the germ. A further test revealed a more disturbing source of infection in samples of blood taken from many healthy inhabitants, which were forwarded to the bacteriologic department. Plague germs were discovered in at least 5 per cent of these samples. Thus, in the hot season, each of these was a probable center of danger, although there was no apparent contact with the disease. The only cure seems to be the destruction of the native town and the erection of a new and clean one which can be kept under sanitary control.

*Hydrocyanic-acid gas against household insects.*

[By L. O. Howard, Entomologist, Department of Agriculture, and Consulting Entomologist, Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.]

The use of hydrocyanic-acid gas for nursery stock affected by insects is described in Circular No. 42 (second series), of this Office. Its use on trees in orchards is described in the Yearbook of the United States Department of Agriculture for 1900 (pp. 257-260).

Recently it has been fully demonstrated that this gas is an excellent remedy for household insects. Probably its first use for this purpose was in June of 1898 by Mr. Marlatt, of this Office, against Psocids in the residence of Mr. G. K. Holmes, of the Division of Statistics of the Department of Agriculture, using the cyanide first at the ordinary strength employed on fruit trees, then double, and finally quadruple this strength. The Psocids came from recently introduced leather-covered furniture, the covering of which was so tightly fastened as to be almost, if not quite, impervious to the gas, and the treatment was only partially successful. Another early use of this gas for household insects was in 1899, in San Francisco, by Mr. Alexander Craw, chief quarantine officer of the Board of Horticulture. In this case it was used against bedbugs, and in very small proportions. Two and one-half fluid ounces of commercial sulphuric acid and 2½ ounces 98 per cent cyanide of potassium were used in a house of several rooms, each containing about 2,250 cubic feet of space; the rooms were closed for two hours, then entirely aired. The operation was apparently successful.

To determine its availability against the insect enemies of stored products or in granaries, some experiments were made during 1898 and the spring of 1899 by Messrs. Marlatt and Chittenden, of this Office,